

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 01801 180654Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----039067 181019Z /14

R 180510Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8334
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1801

EXDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: OTRA, PINT, CB, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH AMBASSADOR OBERG'S VISIT TO CAMBODIA

REF: HONG KONG 830

1. JOURNALIST MENTIONED IN REFTEL, WHOM SWEDISH AMBASSADOR OBERG "COULD TRUST", WAS STEPHEN HILDEBRAND, - SWEDISH JOURNALIST-SCHOLAR FAMILIAR WITH TH AND WELL KNOWN BY SOME OF THE TOP LEADERS IN INDOCHINA. HILDEBRAND TOLD US RECENTLY THAT HE PROPOSED AN INTERVIEW TO AMBASSADOR OBERG, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS AN OLD FRIEND, "WHEN THE AMBASSADOR WAS READY AND HAD TIME TO MULL OVER HIS EXPERIENCES IN CAMBODIA." VIE DAYS AFTER THE TRIP (DEC 29) AMBASSADOR OBERG TOLD HILDEBRAND HE WAS READY. HELDEBRAND SAID TO US, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THAT HE WAS ASTONISHED AT OBERG'S REMARKS. EVEN THOUGH THE TV RENDITION WAS EDITED, THE THRUST OF OBERG'S REMARKS GAVE
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AN INACCURATELY FLATTERING ACCOUNT OF CAMBODIA, HILDEBRAND SAID THAT HE NOW REGRETS THT HE PROPOSED THE INTERVIEW SINCE IT HAS CLEARLY HURT HIS "OLD FRIEND".

2. COMMENT: HILDEBRAND HAS GENERALLY LEFTIST SYMPATHIES BUT IN HIS REPORTING HAS BEEN CONCERNED TO DEPICT AS ACCURATE A STATEMENT AS POSSIBLE OF THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA. HE

CLEARLY FEELS THAT OBERG DID NOT RPT NOT DO THIS IN HIS
SWEDISH TV PROGRAM. DESPITE HILDEBRAND'S SYMPATHY FOR
THE "LIBERATOR STRUGGLES" IN INDOCNINA AND THAILAND, HE
COMMENTED TO US ON THE PHNOM PENH REGIME IN SAME CONCER-
SATION, SAYING THAT "THAT REGIME HAS TO GO."
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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